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# REA ROLL CALL

For REA Men and Women in Services

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## HELPED ON THE ATOMIC BOMB

The Washington Star, under date of August 10, cites Jack Derry (on military furlough from D&C) as one of four Army Engineers residing in the Washington area who contributed to the work on the atomic bomb.

The news article says, "Major Derry, a native of Urichville, Ohio, who was with the Rural Electrification Administration here several years before he received his commission in April, 1942, is a graduate of Ross Polytechnic Institute, Terre Haute, Ind., and had been in the engineering reserve since 1929.

"The four officers were listed by Major General Leslie R. Groves, in charge of the atom bomb project, together with thirty-six other Army Engineers as being among the key men who made special contribution to the work of the 'Manhattan Engineer District,' the 'under-cover' name given to the project."

(Udo Rall's two sons also worked on this project.---Editor)

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## THE JAPS PLANNED CRUEL RESPITE

We have three more names to add to the "REA's In The Orient" list compiled at the request of Lt. Col. Kenneth Stiles. They are: 2nd Lts. Stanley J. Szwarek, Sig. A. W. Det. (A-3); Orville W. Zastrow, 730 Sig. A.W. Co., APO 14224; and Lt. Col. Cecil R. Hill, Hq. 7th Army, APO 758, all with New York addresses.

A recent letter from Col. Stiles tells us about his work and the hazards incurred because of Jap treachery. "Our job, besides flying war material over the 'Hump' to China, is the strategic and tactical transport carrying troops and battle equipment in China.....A very interesting recent assignment of this Division was the evacuation of French soldiers and refugees from French Indo China after their unsuccessful revolt against Jap rule.

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## WALDRON RIDES OUT A TYPHOON

Along with all the other action he has been in the thick of, T/Sgt. Rodney Waldron adds a couple of typhoons to his excitements. The first one hit him on Okinawa and he describes it: "It didn't just blow----it rained like the dickens. To make bad matters worse, the Nips were dropping artillery into the CP and further livening up the situation. Every time some guy would hear it whistle, he'd holler, and dive into a half-filled foxhole without thought for his clothes.

"We were defiladed in a valley down the complete length of which ran a Jap irrigation ditch which took care of a casual rainfall but not a cloudburst. The morning of the second night of rain we awoke to a roaring torrent in our front yard....When I stepped out of the tent, swathed in a leaky poncho and steel helmet, the river below me was about fifty feet wide and roaring hell bent for election. In the middle of the valley could be seen guys clinging to trees, trying to salvage typewriters, equipment, tentage, and clothing. Three days later we were still digging rifles and combat boots out of the mud. The Old Man was convinced that wasn't any place for a CP, so we moved.

"After we loaded out of there, we had smooth sailing for awhile, but just a day or so before landing here (Philippines), we caught the aftermath of something or other. The wind howled up through the rigging like so many angry Irish banshees, and it rained and rained. Being infantry and not sailors we got a bit green around the gills. Lost one man."

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## IRAN HAS NO CHARMS FOR HIM

Last week Lt. Joel M. Babb, who entered the service before Pearl Harbor, touched home base (REA) for the first time. Always with the Quartermaster Corps, Lt. Babb was for two years stationed in Iran where he helped keep supplies

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## HOW TO ENJOY THE PHILIPPINES

Al Kaminstein reads in Roll Call about Navy Lt. Wm. C. Morris' displeasure over conditions for servicemen in Oahu, and hastens to help future situations of this nature. "Since many of our (REA) people may pass through Oahu now, I'll suggest a few ways of enjoying one's stay there without having to pay the Honolulu cover charge.

"If you can use a little exercise after your trip, visit the Sacred Falls. Go to Honolulu and take the bus up Pali Road. When it stops, thumb it over the Pali, and then to the left, all the way up toward the Mormon Temple. It will take about 45 minutes once you leave the road and start walking, but it's so well worth it. Or the Waimea Falls have an added attraction----a swell fresh water swimming pool right under and right above the Falls. You can reach them by going to Pearl Harbor, then up past Schofield Barracks until you hit the other side of the island, then right until the Waimea bridge is reached. Stick to the trails, which are very clear, and if so minded bring your own chow.

"If you're eating in Honolulu, try to make a reservation at the Halekulani, or wait in line at the Moana. If you're with the Navy, you can get much better food than formerly at BOQ 1, right inside the main gate at Pearl."

So finishes Baedecker Kaminstein whose duties with the Red Cross included 18 months of service on Oahu, but who now is on Saipan. He emphasizes this point, "If anyone is passing through that paradise of the Pacific, Tinian, and stops at the Naval Air Base, give us a ring. Or if you're marooned here, look me up."

## QUARTERED IN A "DUST BOWL"

"Just a few lines from my new location 'Somewhere in Southern France,' preparatory to taking the long boat ride," writes Cpl. Elmer L. Eriksson. "They call the area here 'Paradise Lost,' but they must be kidding. It's really only a dust bowl. One day the wind blows the dust one way---then a day or so later it blows in the other direction.

"The food is good, there's plenty of it---but our table and chair is the ground. I hope it won't be too long before I can get back on the job again!"

## SUGGESTS AN REA FOR INDIA

After wandering all over the world and wondering what everyone back home is doing, 2nd Lt. Orville Zastrow is now in India (of all places, he says). "India has practically everything I'd like to do without," he adds, "too many people, almost all of them wretchedly poor. The climate is hotter and wetter than should happen to anybody. Put to this malaria, mosquitoes, snakes, and more diseases than any other area in the world, and you should have a fair picture of India.

"Apparently most things about the country and people are pretty hard for us to understand. But it's obvious that they're convinced Americans are completely crazy, so that makes it mutual." He thinks it might help "to run a submarine cable across the Pacific to illuminate some pretty dark spots in India. But anyone who says any project is feasible if consumer density is high enough, hadn't better try to apply the theory here. It wouldn't work."

Lt. Zastrow was hospitalized at the time he wrote (July 24). He was recovering from dysentery and, after wild and rugged living wherever duty called, he found the comforts of a hospital especially delightful----"electric lights, fans to keep us cool, beds with SHEETS on them, and a RADIO. You ought to see the electric wiring. It's all exposed, and the wires look like wrapping cord; they must be about #18 A.W.G. It's a 220-volt, 50-cycle system....Service isn't too good. Each day there are about half a dozen interruptions."

## PHILIPPINE REA ROUNDUP

The Roll Call now proceeds to fill a "Round-up" request for Lt. Willis E. Johnston, Jr., who wants names and addresses of REA'ers in the Philippines. For the benefit of all those who might be in or around there the names of the following are listed in the hope that they'll all turn loose looking each other up and having a general good time.

T/Sgt. Rodney Waldron, AGD 77th Infantry, APO 77; Lt. James G. Denton, Signal Corps Tng. Sch., APO 75 (Manila); T/5 Al O'Donnell, Fiscal Officer, AFWESPAC, APO 707 (Manila); Lt. Bruce O. Watkins, Box 225, Navy 3245; Lt. (j.g.) Will A. Lewis, MTE Ron 33; Lt. (j.g.) Geo. M.

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## IRAN

(Cont'd)

rolling to the Russians. He motor transported lease-lend aid which at first was mostly ammunition but later included nearly all kinds of supplies. Keeping the lines moving in temperature often hitting 160° F. was not easy, much of it being done at night to escape the heat with afternoons off for sleeping.

In January of this year Lt. Babb left the Middle East, being transferred to Europe where he joined the supply forces that kept the First Army supplied. This was just before the Rhine crossing. On return trips, their trucks were packed with German prisoners of war. This cargo increased, especially after the Rhine was crossed, until there weren't trucks enough to bring back so many prisoners, which perhaps best explains why, since June 15, he has been through hospital channels for rest and recuperation.

Among other places, he spent five weeks in Paris. On August 6 he landed in New York and is scheduled to spend some time at the Butner Convalescent Hospital, Camp Butner, N. C., at the conclusion of which he hopes to be mustered back into the services of REA.

## ROUNDUP

(Cont'd)

Scherrer, USS Hamblen (APA 114); Eugene C. Meyer, CEM, USS Apollo, AS-25; Ensign J. Howard White, USS Hanover, APA 116; W.I.H. Treadway, CEM, Navy Yard, Navy 128; Lt. Donald G. Housley, Hqs. XXI Bomber Command, APO 234; Elmer J. Poss Y1/c (Coast Guard), USS Howard D. Crow (DE-252); Capt. Warner T. Smith, 1st Prov. AAA Group; Navy Lt. Donald C. Schottler, FAW 8, Hdqts. Sq. Patrol Aircraft Service Unit 8-3; and P/5 Wm. B. Bean, 178th Finance Dispersing Sec., APO 70 (Luzon), all with a San Francisco APO or FPO.

Lt. Johnston's own address is 574 Sig. A W Bn., Co. C., 20th Platoon, APO 74. He's on Luzon himself and of his present quarters says, "We are certainly comfortably set up. We have the upper floor of a municipal building which we use for orderly room, officers' quarters, and quarters for some of the enlisted men....We even have a tiled shower----the best arrangement I've seen for any outfit since I've been overseas. That's a little over a year now since we left the mud of Finchhaven----truly a place to remember!"

## CRUEL RESPITE

(Cont'd)

"You probably read in the Stateside papers of the evacuation by the Japs of Liuchow, a former 14th Air Force Base. No better illustration of the Jap mind can be given than what they did to Liuchow. Not one building was left wholly intact, while throughout not only the air field but at various unsuspected places, the Japs planted mines and booby traps. Over some high explosives they put shrapnel and other sharp metal objects. When the mine exploded, sharp metal pieces would fly through the air seriously wounding anyone within several hundred yards. This type of mine was planted at the base of trees and other shaded spots where people might relax.

"Evacuees returning to the city find nothing to eat and that for a Chinese, considering his meager diet, is really something. A little boy about six years old begged for a cupful of rice paste. Crossing the littered street, the weakened youngster stumbled and dropped the cup of food. The boy lay there and scooped up the paste and ate it----dirt and all."

## ANOTHER WAC IS DISCHARGED

Charlotte Landry has been discharged in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations to accept civilian employment with the U. S. Government there. She is still doing the same job that she did for two years as a WAC in the Office of Strategic Services. They're just now finishing up what was started in 1943 while still in the States.

Stationed in Rome now, she says it is a wonderful city. "Most of my year in Italy was spent in Naples and Caserta, with a short time near Florence. Before that I was in Algiers six months. We American civilians are billeted at the Nurses' Rest Hotel, and we eat at the Officers' Hotel across the street. We work in a modern office building, and except for the Roman atmosphere and the Italian language it's almost like being in some large city back home"

## WHO SAYS, "ENCHANTED ISLES?"

The more Ensign J. Howard White sees of Pacific Islands the more he believes in "See America First." He states, "I know that all of

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## COLUMN WRITE!

LT. COL. JOHN S. TARR tells us, "I have been made a small cog in a Board designated to study operations in the theater (HQ Fifteenth Army) and to make recommendations for future conduct of any fighting done by our armies. It's not a small Board---about 500 officers including 21 generals. We expect to move to Bad Nauheim soon. Haven't had much occasion to journey around Germany. Am glad I'm not a native because they have a staggering job of rehabilitation to do. I was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in operations against the enemy, for doing nothing more than my duty as I saw it."

LT. GEO. MCPHEE came to see us on his recent visit here. He was en route to Olathe, Kansas, where he will take NATS training for plane commander, from his Pacific assignment in air evacuation work. He was four months on Guam and ten months in and out of Hawaii.

After spending almost a week at a port of embarkation, while the Japanese and our government were negotiating surrender terms, LT. HARRY C. MCCOLLUM was sent back to the Air Base at Salinas, Cal., and had his APO number taken away from him. His wife hopes that is the first step toward discharge. Her letter contained another subtle thrust toward the same end by her statement, "Hope the Roll Call will be out of existence soon due to all the REA'ers being back." (Thanks, Mary. The Roll Call feels the same way.)

SGT. STANLEY J. VEST has been caught in the occupational force net. Most of his air force base is already there, only a few of them (including him) were left behind to turn the place where he has been stationed to the RAG. The educational program which he had signed up for was dropped after only a few classes when orders to move were received. He hopes to continue it in Germany when they become permanently stationed.

NAVY LTS. KEN HARDY and GEO. MCPHEE, and MAJOR WILLARD H. BIXBY were three REA'ers in service who happened to be in town the evening of the reception for our new Administrator, Claude R. Wickard, at Kiel Auditorium. Of course they came and were greeted with many handclaspings from friends in REA. They were lined up for a picture, posing with other veterans already returned and in civvies.

"Upon leaving Corpus Christi, I was transferred to the Naval Air Station at Minneapolis," NAVY LT. D. C. SCHOTTLER informs us, "for a two-months training as radio-radar officer of a Combat Aircraft Service Unit (Forward Area) for PB4Y-2 airplanes. My training completed there, I was transferred to the west coast where the finishing touches were put on." He was there and being readied for embarkation when the let-up came. He says his life in the Navy hasn't been too rugged, but he admits, "I'm still post-war planning on getting out as soon as possible and returning to REA. Incidentally, I started such planning the day after I entered the Navy which was over three years ago."

PVT. LARRY B. CATES is a hold-out. That famous photograph display to which Uncle Sammy (you know who we mean) fondly refers as his "Rogue's Gallery" is now complete save for Larry's smiling face. Most recent additions to it are Charlotte Landry, Lt. Bruce G. Gingham, and Lt. Harold W. Kelley.

Where, oh, where is Cpl. Paul Carroll? Doesn't anyone hear from him or his wife? Others on the "lost list," some of them for several months, are: Sgt. William Anderson, Pvt. William Henry Davis, Maj. Joseph P. Smith, T/Sgt. Henry J. Holmes, Cpl. J. C. McReynolds, Harriet A. S. Miner Y 3/c, Harriet R. Heller, Y 1/c, Lt. Gordon R. Messmer, Lt. Frederick A. Ripley, Lt. William D. Scoates, Apprentice Seaman Harvey M. Buchanan

Two Navy Lieutenants, FRANCIS J. HURSON and BOB WEBER, stopped in recently to say "hello" to friends in REA. Both entered service at about the same time, and their visits here were only a couple of days apart. Frank has been stationed at Burns City, Indiana as post utilities officer at the Naval ammunition depot where the explosives were loaded on boats for foreign destination. Bob is still in Washington, busy with Power Plant Officer duties at the Navy Yard there.

The REA Veterans Association had its monthly business meeting August 29 at which it was voted to issue a monthly publication devoted to the interests and problems confronting the veteran. It will be edited by Bill Spivey, fifth vice-president. No name has been selected, but Bob Womack, veteran of World War I, suggests "The Revitalized Cootie."

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## EVEN THE DOG GOT SEASICK

A letter from Capt. D. H. Askegaard says he was settled in the Manila Hotel when all of a sudden he found himself in the Ryukyus in charge of another group with an unfortunate amount of equipment to look after. He made the trip up in a small Naval vessel that sometimes rolled and then sometimes pitched until even the ship's dog got seasick. And Askegaard confesses he didn't feel too bright himself.

Every day in the new location meant putting up tents and lugging boxes around, all done in the rain, and moving around in a sea of heavy red mud in which a civilian vehicle couldn't travel its own length. He says the country is fairly attractive with most of the hills steeply rolling and cut into innumerable terraces. The vegetation is mostly scrub pines with only a few scrub cocoanuts.

Fraternization is no problem. The natives can't understand English and the soldiers no savvy Japanese. Civilians (mostly women) work for the Army on the roads and on laundry for 3 yen (30¢) a day.

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## SABER, NOT SKELETON, IN THE CLOSET

Capt. Joe L. Thurston has been caught in the throes of redeployment. The Assembly Area, with headquarters at Rheims, has four sub areas, one of which is Mailly where he went with his battalion commander. Each sub area has several large camps where troops are being processed for shipment to the States or elsewhere. Joe is Executive Signal Officer for one of them.

Joe explains more about the saber which he sent back and which later was presented to REA's new Administrator, Claude R. Wickard, and now hangs on the walls of his office. "It is a German Army Artillery Officer's dress or ceremonial saber. There are no heroics associated with its capture. In the northwest suburbs of Worms, I took over a building previously used as a German headquarters. I needed the building to billet men for a nearby signal installation. While inspecting the place previous to occupying it, I found the saber in a closet.

"I am proud to have the saber hang in the Administrator's office, not on my behalf, but on behalf of the men and women from REA who served in the armed forces."

## GLORIFYING THE QUONSET HUT

From his new station on Iwo, Navy Lt. Hardin Shattuck writes about his wartime journeying and about the island where he now is. He was sent there in a hurry for a special job just before the Nips collapsed. From San Pedro to Port Hueneme, to Seattle by train, and he then travelled by Army transport via Honolulu, Eniwetok, Saipan, and finally arrived on Iwo Jima where for the first two months he and his group lived in tents pitched in foot-deep lava sand.

By August 13 things were turning better and on that date he says, "I have just about completed my set up (living and working quarters). I have a 44-ft quonset hut on 2-ft concrete sidewalls and concrete deck for the main hut. In this I have my gear which is partially set in reinforced concrete rooms; bunk room for my watch, lab for my techs; a storeroom; and lounge for the men (this is complete with coffee maker, maps, card table, and library of current publications). Then let me tell you about my quarters. A room panelled in brown masonite, stripped with redwood, a built-in desk, a closet, bunk, night table, radio, and indirect lighting. My carpenter's mate and I did the work on it.

"My tower is nice (except when the Mustangs start buzzing it). I'm proud of my place. A field engineer from Raytheon says it is the best in the Pacific, and he should know since he has seen all of them. With the help of the Seabees (God bless 'em---Editor's note: Page Seabee Russ Goodwin) and a little elbow grease it's surprising what a fellow can do out here. My gear is functioning perfectly, and I am proud of my boys."

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## COLUMN WRITE!

(Cont'd.)

Capt. Geo. Heycey, for several months on our "lost list," turns up with a letter from the New York Port of Embarkation where he is in Marine Communications. "Our business," he says, "is radio equipment inspection and maintenance aboard army transports as well as commercial ships carrying troops. With the large number of soldiers still to be returned home, we shall continue to be busier than ever. Eventually, I expect most of the wrinkles of this war will be ironed out, and I am looking forward to the time when I shall be able to return to rural electrification."

## "ENCHANTED ISLES"

(Cont'd)

you have heard of the enchanted isles of the Pacific. I believe those people that call them 'enchanted' have a far different definition for the word than I have. As for me, I believe in that slogan 'See America First'....Even Death Valley is God's country compared to some of these islands....In short, it will be a very happy day for me when I can return and REMAIN in the States.

"I have always gotten some self-satisfaction out of helping to operate or plan some mechanical or electrical contrivance, and still do aboard ship. But I will be much more satisfied when that mechanical or electrical contrivance can be operated or planned to aid mankind more directly."

## HERE TO THERE DEPARTMENT

2nd Lt. Orville Zastrow, APO 14224 (India); Maj. D. E. Basler, USKET, APO 887 New York; 1st Lt. Harry C. McCollum, Salinas, Calif., Cpl. Ralph R. Chesley, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Ind.; Capt. Richard L. Patrick, Bryan, Texas; Elmer J. Poss, FPO San Francisco; Sgt. George T. Bradbury, APO 752, New York; Lt. D. C. Schottler, FPO San Francisco; Ens. J. Howard White, APA 116, San Francisco; Lt. George E. McPhee, Olathe, Kan.; 1st Lt. Edward R. Kipp, APO 562, New York; Lt. Col. C. R. Hill, ICD, APO 758, New York; Maj. S. Joseph Marek, Ft. Monroe, Va.; Lt. Willis E. Johnston, Jr., APO 74, San Francisco; Sgt. Stanley J. Vest, AAF Station, APO 559, New York; Capt. Louis C. Stephens, Ft. George Meade, Md.; Maj. Erwin M. Graham, Jr., APO 887, New York; T/5 Al O'Donnell, Manila; Cpl. Elmer L. Eriksson, Marseilles Area.

## BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Born: To Lt. and Mrs. Harry Hardin Shattuck, on August 13, a son, Harry Hardin, Jr. Lt. Shattuck was formerly with Coop. Operations Division.

Married: T/Sgt. Sidney Jerry Gutman to Muriel Ruth Koff, U. S. Womens' Army Corps, Sept. 2, at the Chapel, Winter General Hospital, Topeka, Kansas. Sgt. Gutman was formerly with the Management Division.

## SOMEBODY SURE FIXED BERLIN

From Warrant Officer (j.g.) Herman Kuchler comes a graphic story about the ruins of Berlin. "Night before last (Aug. 21) a bunch of us went for a truck ride through the city. Saw the Olympic Stadium, damaged but not destroyed, rode along Unter der Linden, saw the Tiergarten (the trees are all shot down), Reichstag, Technische Hochschule, Berlin University, German Opera House, State Opera House, Brandenburg Gate, Adlon Hotel, French and American Embassies, and all the other famous palaces, schools, churches, etc., you think of as Berlin.

"All of those buildings, as well as everything else, are in complete ruins. It is unbelievable. Besides bombs, there was a lot of heavy fighting with artillery and machine guns. There are just parts of burned-out brick walls remaining of most of the buildings. Mile after mile the whole city in ruins."

Coming down to a specific instance, Kuchler gives us a glimpse of the Reich Chancellory "where Hitler and the boys fought the battle of Berlin. It is one heck of a mess.....It must have been a beautiful building, marble walls, huge chandeliers, big gold light fixtures, etc., just like the Capitol. But now----it is burned out in many rooms, some places the walls, ceilings and floors have collapsed. There really must have been a fight there!"

About the people he says, "They are more despondent here than in Frankfurt (where he formerly was stationed). There is very, very little for them to eat, few habitable houses, and they are still scared of the Russians. The first thing they say to us is 'Have you anything to eat---any cigarettes, chewing gum, or candy?' Then shaking their heads they say they are 'nicht Nazi' and that things are tough under the Russian who make the poor kind-hearted Germans work. Even the Russians and the French will have to get rougher than they are to do to the Germans what they did to them."

## GOING UP

Sgt. Ted A. Baroody; John K. Taylor, S2/c; Lt. Willis E. Johnston, Jr.